Juvenile Delinquency-1933

Selma, Ala. Times
August 13, 1933

Negro Probation Officer Gives Series Of Talks

Annie M. Stone, negro probation officer, is making a series of talks on "Child Welfare" before negro mothers and children of Selma speaking every Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Presbyterian Church on Sylvan street. All are invited to hear her on Tuesday of this week.

Alabama

General

Juvenile Delinquency-1933

Actually Getting Better

AS PROOF that the rising generation is not galloping to the bowwows the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has made public statistics showing that the trend of juvenile delinquencies took a definite drop in 1931, after having climbed steadily upward since 1927. The figures on which the department bases its conclusions are taken from the records of juvenile courts all over the United States. The rate of delinquency for boys ranged from 162 per 10,000 in 1927 to a peak of 184 in 1930, but dropped to 172 in 1931. Delinquency rates for boys and girls per 10,000 children of juvenile court age showed about the same degree of change, although the number of girls' cases reported was considerably smaller.

Stealing in some form is the offense most often charged against boys arraigned in juvenile courts; acts of carelessness and irresponsibility also are at the bottom of much wrongdoing. The girl problem is somewhat different, according to the records —running away, and "being ungovernable" are offenses in the majority. A larger percentage of the boys' cases involve injury to persons and traffic violations. The small percentage of cases dealing with the possession or sale of drugs and liquor is about the same for boys and girls. Cases of boy truancy are more numerous, while stealing and acts of carelessness or mischief involve comparatively few girls. The type of offenses varies with age and reflects changing interests and pursuits. The largest number of offenders are children from 14 to 15 years of age. Acts of carelessness and mischief are proportionately more numerous among the younger children, and stealing is the major offense of boys of all ages above ten years.

The decrease in rates of delinquency in 1931 as compared with 1930 is traced in part to a decrease in offenses of children under 14 years of age. There were fewer charges against younger boys of acts of carelessness and mischief, truancy, ungovernableness; there were also fewer charges of ungovernable girls and of truancy and sex offenses.

Stealing, the most common offense of boys, and one which would be expected to show the effects of economic conditions, did not decline in 1931 and has shown a steady increase since 1927. Rates of delinquency for negro children are consistently higher than for white; in 1931 the rates for negro boys were two to four times as large as the rates for white boys. However, there is less truancy among negroes than whites.

The increasing use of juvenile courts throughout the country in handling child offenders unquestionably is proving the most effective method of correcting criminal tendencies among the rising generation. These tribunals, of comparatively recent establishment in most states, have demonstrated the soundness of the theory that problems of juvenile delinquency can best be solved through special handling of individual cases by official mechinery set somewhat apart from the routine treadmill of the courts devoted to adult offenders.

Juvenile Delinquency—1933

Musical Negro Almost Dances Way From Jail

ATLANTA, Aug. 22 (AP)—Orange Nelson—quite black and very musical—almost danced his way out of captivity today. The law wanted Orange and his brother Roy for automobile theft. Richard "Lookdown" Bolton, white, was arrested while pushing the car away. He had implicated the two other Negroes.

Orange came shuffling and hey-heying into the police station. His feet tapped a tatoo on the cold floor. Then he coon-shined a bit and cut a fancy wing buck.

In between jerks he told officers he was the boy who made a few pennies dancing on the street while his brother beat a tin can drum.

He'd show 'em, promised Orange, and did a cakewalk and a couple of cart wheels.

The police were about ready to believe him innocent. A boy who could dance like that wouldn't steal, they reasoned. But Lookdown Bolton told such a convincing story implicating the dancing Orange and his drum-beating brother than authorities held the three for juvenile court.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1933

Indiana.

COLORED PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Numerous recent developments in Indianapolis have demonstrated the fact that there is great need for the institution in our municipal government a colored probation department.

Citizens are unanimous in the opinion that some such departure from the present system of centralized administration in this respect is becoming more and more essential with the growth of the colored population of the city of Indianapolis.

A probation department, composed of a personnel eitirely colored would be an asset to the city in a number of ways.

Of course, it is taken for granted that officers of the nature called for in such a case, would naturally have to be possessed of the highest efficiency procurable. Out of such an organization would ensue a far greater measure of natural delligence in duty performance.

We do not mean to imply that the present system of dealing with juvenile crime is entirely worthless in character. The naked truth, however, is that it is not elastic enough to satisfactorily cope with the growing demands upon its functions.

Not enough interest of a human sort is being taken in cases in which our young girls and boys of the so-called unruly types are involved. This, we think, is mainly traceable to the ever increasing numbers of problems which the present all too limited staff of juvenile officers is called upon to solve.

Inability on the part of the latter to fully cope with the situation as it now is, reveals plainly the necessity for a probation department officered entirely by capable colored officers.

We are confident that such a department, with its welfare far-reaching functions and natural interest in the welfare of our children would be productive of immense benefits in terms of lessened juvenile crime and inculcation in the minds of the young desired respect for the law.

Indianapolis Recorder 3-25-33

COLORED OFFICER SHOULD BE ADDED TO PROBATION DEPATMENT SAYS JUDGE SHAEFFER

Indianapolis Ind.

Proposals of leading Colored Citizens that a Negro be added to the personnel of the Probation department of the Municipal courts of this city to the end that a steadily omunting cirme record be reduced, have met with the approval of William E. Shaeffer, Judge municipal Court Room 4.

Last year nearly 6,000 or 25 per cent of the total number of persosns brought before the two branches of the municipal courts that try misdemeanor cases were Negroes. Of the 1444 persons admitted to probation, 361 were Negroes.

These figures represent a case load far beyond the capacity of the present of the department to handle in the best manner possible. This is shown by the fact that only 51 of the cases were investigated before sentence and probation, 101 after, and 55 given special attention at request of the judges.

Those who seek a reorganization of the system designed to obviate unnecessary institutional correction of minor law violators express a belief that sufficient personal should be added to enable careful and full investigation of cases before sentence and admission to probation.

Six persons in all are at present carrying on the work of the department, under supervision of Solon C. Vial, chief probation officer.

In a recent interview, Judge Shaeffer expressed a belief that the appointment of a Colored probation officer, qualified by experience, training and natural inclination, to investigate cases of colored persons many of whom are unfortunate victims of circumstances would not only, in a measure help relieve the existing stress in the department but prove high beneficial socially as well as economically.

Juvenile Delinquency-1933

Louisiana

New Orleans, La. Times-Picayune
August 8, 1933

HOME FOR JUVENILES FORMALLY DEDICATED

Shreveport, La., Aug. 7.—Approximately 2000 persons attended the dedication of the David H. Raines home for negro juveniles Sunday afternoon here. The home is named for David H. Raines, a negro of Shreveport, who gave $1000 for the institution and is contributing monthly for its support. The home is located on a 20-acre plot of ground six miles out of Shreveport.

The dedicatory address was delivered by Rev. H. H. Dunn of New Orleans.

Massachusetts.

Juvenile Delinquency-1933

WHY NOT A COLORED PROBATION OFFICER?

Some day we are going to recognize the fact that we cannot approach the problems of criminology or juvenile delinquency on any hit-or-miss basis. In the matter of coordinating our city and state police, there will be a complete tie-up that will not permit dangerous characters to jump from city to city or state to state with the same assurance and safety as they can today.

11-25-33

This is going to be made possible by the constant insistence of those authorities who seek perfection and the recognition of the fact that it is far better to spend more money and have less violation of the law.

Along with just such advancement in thought will come the realization that where the courts have a considerable number of persons of a certain racial group coming before it, a trained probation officer of that group ought to be selected to properly advise and inform the bench.

We do not believe that there is any question in the minds of any intelligent person but that an understanding of the home environment and family customs is of inestimable importance in judging the reactions of an individual who comes in conflict with the law.

To acquaint oneself with all of this, takes time and patience and is expensive. The element of time here is exceedingly important, for every one of the present probation officers is staggering under case loads, but making an honest attempt to be considerate and just in their clearance.

A colored probation officer would not only bring a more intelligent interpretation to the bench concerning Negroes, but would help relieve the tremendous load the present workers must carry.

Thus, in behalf of a more scientific approach to this problem of probation, we petition our courts to consider seriously the selection and appointment of a colored probation officer in Boston.

Juvenile Delinquency -1933

North Carolina.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Sentinel
Sunday, January 29, 1933

Urges Work House For Women of Both Races

To the editor of The Journal and Sentinel:

There seems to be a fresh agitation in the matter of re-establishing the reformatory for Negro boys. That is fine, I hope it goes through.

Another question that is just as important, if not more so, is a work house for women of both races who pass through our courts to the jail. A few of us have been pleading for this for several years and all we get is a courteous hearing before the county fathers. "Economy" is the common denominator of all issues now. On this basis alone a work house should be built and fully equipped. These women are housed, fed and given medical treatment by the county and not one lick of work do they do for all this. It is a boon to them. They get rested and doctored up, with plenty of time to rest and plan for their career when they come out. Quite often their "friend" is waiting at the corner next to the jail in a car to take them where he has arranged for their lodging.

These women often ask to be put in jail because they fare so well and get the rest and treatment they need.

If we had a work house equipped with a laundry and serving room they could do all the laundry work, mending and making clothes for the T. B. hospital, convict camps and jail. In doing this they would be pointed toward a better life and given an inspiration—if they were not morally dead—to rise above the criminal life. It seems to me a blind man could see this, but the powers seem to be blind. Ask Judge Tom Watson what he thinks of this. The Hon. S. Porter Graves has made several forceful talks for us about the importance of this but it hasn't, as yet, soaked in!

The neglect to provide this work house is a crime in itself. I do not say this in an accusative sense for I believe our commissioners are honest, well meaning men who are doing what they think best in all county interests but if they will figure a little on the keeping cost of these women and the cost of what they could do, I believe they eyes would open. How much does it cost per day to keep these women in jail? How much does the laundry for county centers cost? How much does mending and making clothes for all these county units cost? Figure it up and balance your budget.

—MRS. J. E. SILLS.

Winston-Salem, N. C.,
Jan. 28, 1933.

Greensboro, N. C. Patriot
August 3, 1933

Juvenile Crime Lessens In City

There was less juvenile delinquency and dependency in the city last month, reports the Greensboro Juvenile commission. Fewer negro boys required attention from the juvenile court than at any time during the past year.

The delinquent cases numbered 31, and included 22 white boys, two white girls, five negro boys and two negro girls. Larceny made up 10 of the offenses, truancy got the blame for one, breaking and entering ensnared six of the young lawbreakers, and the 14 others were listed under various other delinquencies.

Dependent cases totaled only 10. Four white and three negro girls and three white boys made up the grounds in which negro boys were conspicuously absent.

The commission handled 18 less cases last month than in July a year ago and four less than in the preceding month of June. There are 118 youngsters on probation at present. Of the 122 on probation in June, 15 were released last month. Disposition was made of the 41 cases handled last month as follows:

Probation, 11; reprimanded and warned, 14; supervision, 3; home placement, 4; committed to institution, 3; dismissed, 4; pending, 2. Probation office calls numbered 134 and probation visits numbered 125.

Shelby, N. C. Star
August 4, 1933

Small Number Of Delinquents In Youths Of County

Rosenwald Study Shows Total Of Only 71 Delinquent Children In 10 Years.

Raleigh, Aug. 2.—A Rosenwald study of "Negro child welfare in North Carolina" for a decade has just been issued under joint auspices of the N. C. Board of Charities and Public Welfare and the School of Public Welfare of the State university, under the direction of Dr. Wiley Britton Sanders, associate professor of sociology at the university.

Material for the publication was started under the administration of Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson as commissioner of public welfare and completed this year under Mrs. W. T. Bost's administration. Dr. Sanders contributed his time and the funds were provided by private subscriptions and money from the Rosenwald fund.

Divided into four parts, the 326 page volume treats of "History and Present Status of Negro Welfare Work in North Carolina;" "Institutions caring for Negro Children in North Carolina"; "Negro Children and the Law" and "Negao Children in Home and School."

Making a distinction between delinquent children, those with criminal tendencies, and dependent and neglected children, the publication gives an interesting table on the numbers of cases, white and colored, handled in the 100 counties of the state before the county juvenile courts for a 10-year period, 1918-29.

Mecklenburg county leads with 3,107 delinquents, Forsyth coming second with 2,051, Buncombe third with 1,702; Guilford fourth with 1,025, Wake had 998 and New Hanover 919. With dependent and neglected children, Buncombe led with 336, Mecklenburg had 680, Wayne 397, Forsyth 285, Guilford 261 Pitt 262 and Gaston 237.

Cleveland county in the 10 years had delinquent children as follows: white, boys, 41; girls, 2; negro boys, 21; girls 7; total 71; and dependent and neglected children as follows: white, boys 3; girls 6; negro boys, none, girls, none; total 9; records incomplete and not counted. 10.

Waynesville, N. C. Mountaineer
December 21, 1933

A JUVENILE COURT PROBLEM

Ask any member of the police Department on patrol of the business section what causes the most robberies and the chances are that he will promptly answer Negro juvenile delinquents.

Members of the department say that these Negro boys are accountable for a large number of the petty breaking-in cases reported, and that their activities continually harass merchants and business establishments.

When they are arrested, sometimes after several weeks of investigation, they are turned over to the Juvenile Court. There they are placed in the county jail, held for a short time and released and the whole story is repeated.

A few months ago an 18-year-old Negro boy confessed that he had committed first degree burglary in 150 Asheville homes over a period of several years. His case is a typical example of what occurs when these juveniles are allowed to continue their careers of crime.

Should the blame be placed on the Juvenile Court? An investigation will convince any fair-minded person that the trouble goes deeper than that. After these boys are arrested and brought before Judge J. Frazier Glenn, he has no place to send them, no institution to which they can be committed. He can hold them in the county jail, but that is an expensive and futile remedy.

"Why not have a farm, perhaps some of the property now in the control of the county, to which these boys can be sent and put to work?" Judge Glenn suggests.

Maybe that is the answer to the problem. Possibly the supervision for the next few months at lease, could be handled through the CWA "white collar" employes.

It would assuredly take a tremendous load off the merchants and business houses that are being continually harassed. It would also remove the greatest problem that the Juvenile Court is facing.—Asheville Times

Juvenile Delinquency - 1933

Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

MAR 26 1933

CLUB AIDS NEGROES TO CUT DELINQUENCY

Crime Expert Blames Business Men for Lack of Interest in Youth.

By JOSEPH H. RAINEY

Delinquency among Negro boys—particularly those coming under influence of the Wissahickon Boys' Club—is definitely on the wane.

The Wissahickon Boys' Club is the only Negro club of its kind in Philadelphia.

According to a recent survey 1267 Negro youths were arrested in this city in 1932. Of this number only seven were taken in custody on the west side of Germantown, where the club is located.

There are 5235 Negroes living on the west side of Germantown. Of this number, 523 are boys, which means that delinquency was 1.33 percent. This by far exceeds the record made in behavior in other sections of the city.

Locations of Groups.

In West Philadelphia, south of Market st., South Philadelphia, south of Market st. and west of Broad st., and North Philadelphia, north of Market st. and east of Broad st., the survey shows that the most troublesome groups of Negro boys live. The per cent of delinquency in these three sections is 8.32 percent, or a ratio of one-twelfth.

Eleven thousand, six and seventy-two Negroes live in West Philadelphia south of Market st., and of this number 1167 are boys. During 1932 92 of them were placed under arrest. In South Philadelphia, south of Market st. and west of Broad st., are 51,109 Negroes, 5111 of them youths. One hundred and forty-eight were prisoners at some time or other in 1932. In North Philadelphia, north of Market st. and east of Broad, the Negro population is 46,266. Of this number 4627 are boys. Three hundred and twenty-five of them were arrested last year.

In North Philadelphia, north of Market st. and west of Broad, more Negro boys were arrested than in any other section of the city, yet the percentage was not the highest, being only 7.02 percent. Of the 46,266 Negroes living in this section 4627 are boys. Three hundred and twenty-five of them were cited for offenses during 1932.

Blames Business Men.

Richard Anderson, of the Crime Prevention Bureau, told a large group at the monthly forum of the Citizens Republican Club, 15th and Lombard sts., that the Negro business man is responsible for Negro youth in crime.

"Negro business men lack interest in the welfare of their youth," Anderson said.

He suggested that Negroes form clubs and organizations to combat crime, and to teach youth difference between right and wrong. Unemployed boys, white and colored, need an opportunity to enjoy recreation under supervised leadership, Anderson claimed. The lack of industrial opportunities for Negro boys also was given as a reason for crime.

PHILADELPHIA PA. RECOR
MARCH 26, 1933

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Juvenile Delinquency - 1933

Tennessee

ANOTHER SIDE OF THE PROBLEM

The thought which a recent editorial in this column intended to convey, as it dealt with Negro juvenile delinquency and problems which Negro girls face on the streets of our city came to light in a far more definite way this week as a young Negro girl was placed on trial in criminal court because of a highway robbery charge preferred by a white man. East Tennessee News

The colored girl's story was amply plausible as she told of being accosted by the two white men, lured to an alley and after engaging in disgraceful conduct for a price, the men set about to take their fees back and failing they called to their assistance the courts of our county to the tune of having a Negro member of Sheriff Brewer's staff of deputies place her under arrest on a charge of highway robbery. In view of her inability to furnish bond she was thrown in jail, ther to lie until it suited the convenience of her prosecutors to appear in court and prosecute his charges. Then it was that the young woman was subjected to the humiliation of parading her vices before the large crowd that packed the court room as she was carried through a most gruelling cross examination at the hands of the prosecuting attorney. Nor did her punishment end there. The jury of twelve white men deliberated over the matter for more than two hours and finally decided that the conflicting evidence offered by the two whites that was fraught with most flagrant discrepencies, and the testimony of the Negro deputy-sheriff, who admitted on the witness stand that his fee for serving the warrant was four dollars was to be accorded more consideration than the unfortunate young Negro woman, and a sentence of sixty days and costs was their verdict. This means that the young Negro girl will have to languish behind the bars of the Knox county jail at the expense of the taxpayers for near one hundered days, unless the presiding jurist should feel inclined to place a different construction on the deplorable affair and grant a new trial.

4-6-33 Knoxville Sentinel

Instead of these "committees" parading about registering protest to officials because of failure of their friends to secure positions, they should join in registering protests because of just such a state of affairs as was brought to light in this trial last week. Certainly the thoughtful leadership of both local racial groups are confronted with a serious and dangerous problem in this matter of racial intermingling and it is one that must be solved without losing sight of the Negro woman side.